

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 PM-07 AGR-20 DODE-00 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, JM

SUBJECT: LETTERS OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GOJ ON
OPERATION BUCCANEER

REF: STATE 160546

1. PRIME MINISTER MANLEY SIGNED A LETTER TO ME ON AUGUST 9, 1974 CONFIRMING HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE USG AND THE GOJ RELATING TO THE USE OF THE FOUR HELICOPTERS ON LOAN FROM DOD WHICH ARE DEDICATED TO OPERATION BUCCANEER. SUB-PARAGRAPHS ONE THROUGH SEVEN APPEAR FULLY RESPONSIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUIREMENTS INDICATED REFTEL. HOWEVER, I WAS CONCERNED BY THE LANGUAGE IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF THE PM'S LETTER, AND SPECIFICALLY TO THE SUGGESTION THAT THE OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUCCANEER WOULD BE UNDER MY AUTHORITY AND DIRECTION. I SOUGHT TO CORRECT THIS MIS-UNDERSTANDING IN A LETTER I HANDED TO PRIME MINISTER MANLEY IN THE COURSE OF A CALL ON HIM ON AUGUST 21, AND IN GENERAL TO CLARIFY THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE USG AND GOJ TO ONE ANOTHER WITH RESPECT TO OPERATION BUCCANEER. THE PM READ THE LETTER AND SAID HE SAW NO PROBLEMS WITH

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IT, BUT THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO SHOW IT TO HIS ADVISERS.

I ASSUME THAT HE WILL REPLY ONCE AGAIN GIVING FINAL
CONFIRMATION TO OUR UNDERSTANDING. HERewith THE TEXT
OF PM'S LETTER OF AUGUST 9.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

I REFER TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MY MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY
AND JUSTICE, THE HONOURABLE ELI MATALON, AND REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND YOUR EMBASSY,
ON THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS AND DEMANDS OF THE
OPERATION BUCCANEER.

I AM WRITING TO CONFIRM MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE JAMAICA GOVERNMENT, RELATING
TO BUCCANEER WHOSE OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE UNDER
YOUR GENERAL AUTHORITY AND DIRECTION:

(I) FOUR TROOP LIFT HELICOPTERS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT WILL BE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL
OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE;

(II) WHILE PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN JAMAICA, THESE HELICOPTERS
WILL BE CAPTAINED BY PILOTS OF THE DEA;

(III) NO HERBICIDE SPARY EQUIPMENT WILL BE INSTALLED NOR
SHOULD THE HELICOPTERS NORMALLY BE USED IN TROOP LIFTS
CONNECTED WITH THE ERADICATION PROGRAMME;

(IV) THE HELICOPTERS COULD BE USED HOWEVER, TO SATISFY THE
NORMAL LEGITIMATE REQUIREMENTS OF THE JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE;

(V) THE HELICOPTERS MAY ALSO BE USED IN OPERATIONS DESIGNED
TO INTERDICT SMUGGLERS ENGAGED IN NARCOTIC AND OTHER
SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES;

(VI) THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA WILL HOLD THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT HARMLESS IN RESPECT OF CLAIMS AND LIABILITIES
WHICH MAY ARISE FROM THE USE OF THE HELICOPTERS IN THESE
ACTIVITIES.

(VII) THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY
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FUEL AT NO COST TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DURING THE
OPERATION OF THE HELICOPTERS IN JAMAICA.

I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONFIRMATION. END TEXT.

3. HERewith THE TEXT OF MY LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER
MANLEY OF AUGUST 21. BEGIN TEXT:

I REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF AUGUST 9, 1974, CONCERNING THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS AND DEMANDS OF OPERATION BUCCANEER. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS, AS YOU KNOW, BEEN PLEASED TO RESPOND TO THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INTERDICT THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE HAVE ALSO SUPPLIED SOME COMMODITIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN THE PROGRAM ON EITHER A LOAN OR A GRANT BASIS.

YOUR LETTER MIGHT BE TAKEN TO IMPLY THAT OPERATION BUCCANEER WILL BE UNDER MY AUTHORITY AND DIRECTION, THOUGH THIS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN INTENDED. I AM, OF COURSE, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROPER USE OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL DEDICATED TO OPERATION BUCCANEER. HOWEVER, IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND DIRECTION OF OPERATION BUCCANEER LIES WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA, AND THAT THE ROLE OF UNITED STATES EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL IS SUPPORTIVE AND ADVISORY. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE UNDER THE GENERAL AUTHORITY AND DIRECTION OF YOUR MINISTER OF SECURITY AND JUSTICE, MR. ELI MATALON.

THIS LETTER CONFIRMS THE AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CONTAINED IN SUB-PARAGRAPHS (I) THROUGH (VII) OF YOUR LETTER. IN ADDITION, I THINK IT MAY BE USEFUL TO RE-STATE THAT THESE HELICOPTERS CANNOT BE USED DIRECTLY FOR ERADICATION PURPOSES INVOLVING THE USE OF HERBICIDES.

AS NOTED IN OUR AIDE-MEMOIRE OF JUNE 10, THE GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE UNITED STATES VIEWS ITS PARTICIPATION IN THIS JAMAICAN EFFORT AS A ONE-TIME, SHORT-TERM EFFORT. IN VIEW OF THIS, WE BELIEVE THAT A TERMINATION DATE OF DECEMBER 15, 1974, FOR DIRECT AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN OPERATION BUCCANEER SHOULD BE SET, AT WHICH TIME THE FOUR HELICOPTERS, OTHER COMMODITIES IN JAMAICA ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, AND THE DEA PERSONNEL IN JAMAICA FOR TEMPORARY DUTY WITH OPERATION BUCCANEER SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, OF COURSE, HOPES TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA BEYOND THIS DATE IN OUR MUTUAL EFFORT AGAINST ILLICIT NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE DEA OFFICE ATTACHED TO THIS EMBASSY WILL BE MAIN-

TAINED TO WORK IN COOPERATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE
AUTHORITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA.

I FULLY SHARE YOUR EARNEST DESIRE FOR AN EARLY AND
SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR GOALS. YOUR CONFIRMATION
OF THIS LETTER WOULD BE APPRECIATED. END OF TEXT
GERARD

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